(c) India had participated in the Ottawa Process as an 'observer' but did not join the Convention. Reservations of the Government pertain primarily to the absence of any acknowledgement of the legitimate security concerns of countries, which necessitate the use of Anti Personnel Landmines (APLs) within valid security norms and in observance of internationally acknowledged and well define safety parameters. India is however committed to the eventual elimination of APLs in a manner which would address both the humanitarian concerns and legitimate secruity requirements of States. India is a party to the Amended Portocol—II of the 1980 Inhumane Weapons Convention (Certain Conventional Weapons) (CCW) which deals with APLs. India's armed forces have scrupulously followed the provision of Amended Protocol—II of (Certain Conventional Weapons) (CCW).

Besides, India is actively engaged in the ongoing discussions on the restriction on mines other than anti personnel mines.

Modernisation of Ordnance factories

1308. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ordnance factories are getting damaged due to frequent fires;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to modernize Ordnance factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) There have been three fire accidents during the current year. The financial loss caused in the first two is Rs. 3,02,56,0007- and Rs. 2,19,31,500/- respectively. The financial loss for the third case is yet to be determined.

(b) In the first case, no specific cause could be ascertained by the Board of inquiry. In the second case, the fire was probably caused due to electric short circuit. The cause for the third case would be known only after the Board of Enquiry report is received.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1804 crores has been earmarked in the 10th Plan for modernization of the ordnance factories including the replacement. While drawing up the plan for modernization, due consideration is given to the safety aspect.

Reorganisation of Cantonment Boards

1309. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Cantonment Boards have been reorganized;

(b) if so, whether representatives from civil population have also been nominated on the Boards; and

(c) if not, the places where such nominations have yet not been done and by when these are proposed to be nominated with civilian representatives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Out of 62 cantonment boards, constitutions of 56 cantonment boards stand changed (varied) under section 14 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 and these cantonment boards are functioning. The terms of elected members in remaining six cantonment boards are still to expire.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Nominations of civilian members have not been finalized in respect of 54 cantonment boards as elections were proposed to be conducted there under the provisions of the existing Cantonment Act, 1924. The names of such 54 cantonment boards are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Names of Cantonment Boards where nomination of civilian members have not been finalized:

1. Agra
2. Ahmedabad
3. Ahmednagar
4. Ajmer